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ANTY 426.01: Culture, Health and Healing - UG

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Anthropology 426: Culture, Health and Healing

Undergraduate Syllabus

Instructor Information

Instructor: Gilbert Quintero

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Phone: 243-5825

Office: Social Sciences 224

Office hours: T 11:10-12:30, R 12:30-2:00

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the field of medical anthropology – the study of human health, disease and curing from a cross-cultural, historical, archeological, and evolutionary perspective. Societies throughout the world recognize certain bodily, emotional, and mental conditions as undesirable and in need of change. Individual and societal definitions of disease and responses to illness are shaped by biological characteristics, social dynamics, cultural values, and collective expectations. In this course we will examine various theories, methods, and frameworks in order to explore how health, illness, and healing are conceptualized and experienced in different cultures. Topics will include: shamanism, medical ecology, cultural and political ecologies of disease, medical systems as cultural systems, global health issues, mental illness, and sociocultural definitions of health and illness.

After successfully completing this course the student should be able to:

1. Describe the interrelationships between human biological and sociocultural systems and diseases in several different sociocultural settings;
2. Compare core components of health systems, including etiology, diagnosis, help-seeking, treatment, evaluation of efficacy and effectiveness, and health care traditions and sectors in several different sociocultural settings;
3. Recognize major theoretical and methodological approaches to health in anthropology;
4. Identify several major contemporary issues in the anthropology of health and illness; and
5. Understand the contributions of applied anthropology in addressing health issues.

Course Requirements

Attendance & participation	10 %
Exams (best 2 of 3)	60 %
Critical book review	30 %

Plus/minus grades will be assigned for this course at the instructor's discretion. Final cumulative grades will be based upon the point totals for each of the requirements outlined above.

Attendance and participation

Students are responsible for attending class on time on a regular basis and contributing to in-class activities. If a student does not attend class or participate in an activity they generally will not receive points. Students are allowed to miss one in-class assignment due to an excused absence, at the discretion of the instructor, without penalty. There will be approximately five of these assignments during the course of the semester. They are unannounced.

Exams

A portion of each student's grade will be based upon the best scores from two out of three exams. This means that the last exam is optional, based on your satisfaction with the scores on the previous two exams. Exams will consist of objective, multiple choice questions and will cover material from lectures and readings. Formal reviews or study guides for these exams will **not** be provided.

Critical book review

Students are required to write a single integrated critical review of two books, "Unimagined Community" (Thornton) and "AIDS and Accusation" (Farmer). This review must be approximately 3000 words in length, excluding the bibliography. No late papers will be accepted. Details regarding the structure and content of the review will be provided.

Policies

Adds, drops, grade changes

University policies on drops, adds, changes of grade option, or change to audit status will be strictly enforced. These policies are described in the current catalog. Students should specifically note that after a certain point in the semester, such changes are NOT automatically approved. They may be requested by petition, but the petition MUST be accompanied by documentation of extenuating circumstances.

Electronic devices

Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off for the duration of class. Laptop users must sit in the first row of the classroom.

Attendance

Please be on time for class and notify me if you intend to leave early. Irregular attendance will result in a lower grade. The instructor will not provide students with private “catch-up” sessions.

Notes and lecture materials

The instructor will not provide students with notes or other lecture materials (e.g., slides).

Make-up exams

All students must take at least two out of the three exams. If an exam is missed, the student will receive no points. Because a student can miss one exam without penalty there will generally be no make-up exams. **The only exceptions to this are those situations that fall under University policy** which states that a make-up will be allowed in circumstances where a student can provide documentation that they are missing a scheduled exam because of their participation in a University sponsored activity, which includes field trips, ASUM service, music or drama performances, and intercollegiate athletic events. Individuals missing a scheduled exam because of military service or mandatory public service (e.g., jury duty) may also petition for a make-up. Any student requiring a make-up must notify the instructor in writing no less than a week before the scheduled exam and must provide official documentation regarding the reason for the absence in advance. If a make-up exam is approved it must be completed within one week of the original exam.

Extra credit

There are no extra credit assignments offered in this course.

Accommodations

University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. Please notify the instructor via email. He will work with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to make accommodations. Please contact DSS (243.2373, Lommasson Center 154) for more information.

Email

Please conduct any class related email communications with me through your UM account.

Code of Conduct

All students are expected to perform in accordance with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php

Plagiarism

As noted in the course catalog (<http://www.umt.edu/catalog/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php>):

Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion.

Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one's own original work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one's own original work is plagiarism.

Hard copies and paper formats

Unless explicitly noted, all written assignments must be turned in as hard copies – **electronic submissions will not be accepted**. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Arial or Times font with 1 inch margins.

Return of course materials

Written course assignments will not be returned. If you want copies of these materials please make yourself duplicates before turning them in.

Required Texts

- Farmer, Paul. AIDS and Accusation Haiti and the Geography of Blame, 2nd edition. University of California Press. ISBN: 0520248392. 2006.
- Thornton, Robert J. Unimagined Community: Sex, Networks, and AIDS in Uganda and South Africa. University of California Press. ISBN: 0520255534. 2008.
- Course reader (available at the Bookstore). Reading assignments from this volume are denoted by an asterisk (*) in the course schedule (below). Page numbers refer to upper corners of the reader.

Course Supplement

A web-based supplement for this class is available on Moodle: <http://umonline.umd.edu/>.
Technical support is provided at: <http://umonline.umd.edu/techsupport/helpdesk.aspx>.

Course Schedule, Topics, and Assignments

Week 1/Aug 26 – What is Medical Anthropology?

* Brown et al., *Medical Anthropology* (p. 1-13)
Evans-Pritchard, *Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events*
Turner, *A Ndembu Doctor in Practice*

Week 2/Sep 2 – Defining Health & Disease

Crawford, *A Cultural Account of "Health"*
d'Houtaud and Field, *The Image of Health*
Izquierdo, *When "Health" is Not Enough*

Week 3/Sep 9 – Disease and Early Human Evolution; Medical & Political Ecologies of Health

* Armelagos, *Health and Disease* (p. 15-26)
* McKeown, *Determinants of Health* (p. 27-33)
* Brown, *Cultural Adaptations* (p. 34-49)
* Farmer, *Social Inequalities* (p. 50-58)
Eaton, Konner & Shostak, *Stone Agers in the Fast Lane*
Fabrega, *Earliest Phases in the Evolution of Sickness and Healing*

Week 4/Sep 16 – Etiology; Theories of Healing

* Foster, *Disease Etiologies* (p. 67-76)
* Konner, *Transcendental Medication* (p. 77-80)
* Blumhagen, *White Coat* (p. 81-87)
* Lèvi-Strauss, *The Sorcerer's Magic* (p. 88-98)
* Moerman, *Doctors and Patients* (p. 99-107)
Erickson, *What Causes Disease?*

Week 5/Sep 23 – Symbolic Healing

Reichard, *Theory of Curing*

Exam 1 (9/25)

Week 6/Sep 30 – Shamanism

Finkler, *Sacred Healing and Biomedicine Compared*

Frank, *Nonmedical Healing*

Kleinman & Sung, *Why Do Indigenous Practitioners Successfully Heal?*

Week 7/Oct 7 – Beliefs and Healing; Semantics of Illness

* Hahn, *The Nocebo* (p. 108-113)

* Dressler, *Ethnomedical Beliefs* (p. 115-122)

* CDC, *Health Beliefs* (p. 123-125)

Week 8/Oct 14 – Explanatory Models and Social Constructions of Illness

Chavez et al., *Beliefs Matter*

Nichter, *Idioms of Distress*

* Waxler, *Learning to be a Leper* (p. 126-139)

* Hunt, *Strategic Suffering* (p. 140-149)

* Murphy, *The Damaged Self* (p. 150-161)

* Inhorn, *Genital Herpes* (p. 169-175)

Week 9/Oct 21 – Mind, Culture & Society

* Kleinman, *Psychiatric Disorders* (p. 191-204)

Obeyesekere, *Depression, Buddhism, and the Work of Culture in Sri Lanka*

Week 10/Oct 28 – Culture Bound Syndromes

* Rubel, *Epidemiology of a Folk Illness* (p. 205-215)

Swartz, *Anorexia Nervosa as a Culture-Bound Syndrome*

Ritenbaugh, *Obesity as a Culture-Bound Syndrome*

Exam 2 (10/30)

Week 11/Nov 4 – Medicalization, Pharmaceuticalization & Disease Mongering

Conrad, *Medicalization and Social Control*

Williams et al., *Waking Up to Sleepiness*

Woloshin & Schwartz, *Giving Legs to Restless Legs*

Week 12/ Nov 11 – The Anthropology of Drug Use

Agar & Reisinger, *A Tale of Two Policies*

Quintero, *Problematizing "Drugs"*

Week 13/Nov 18 – Nature or Nurture?: Race, Ethnicity & Disease

Armelagos & Goodman, *Race, Racism and Anthropology*
Gravlee & Sweet, *Race, Ethnicity, and Racism in Medical Anthropology*
Hahn & Stroup, *Race and Ethnicity in Public Health Surveillance*

Week 14/Nov 25 – Global Health in Anthropological Perspective

* Nichter et al., *Saving the Children* (p. 230-242)
* Kendall et al., *Ethnomedicine* (p. 243-250)
* Green, *New Challenges* (p. 251-247)
Singer & Erickson, *Global Health and the Anthropological Paradigm*
Singer & Erickson, *A Brighter or Bleaker Future?*

Thanksgiving Holiday 11/27 (no class)

Week 15/Dec 2 – Wrap Up; Global Health in the Anthropocene

Book reviews due (12/4)

Steffen et al., *The Anthropocene: Conceptual and Historical Perspectives*

Week 16/Dec 10 – Final Exam

Exam 3 10:10-12:10 (12/10)

Reading assignments should be completed by the first class meeting of the week.

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Changes may be necessary and will be announced in class.